

DECORATING GUIDE

King Harbor Yacht Club



Christmas Boat Parade

*Sponsored by: King Harbor Yacht Club
280 Yacht Club Way
Redondo Beach, CA 90277
310/376-2459*

General Information

Parade ID numbers must be displayed on the starboard and stern areas! Numbers need to be **WELL LIGHTED** for **judging** and **emergency identification**.

All boats must be under auxiliary power for circling the parade route. Average **parade speed is 4 knots**.

Towing any kind of vessel is permitted **ONLY** with prior approval of the Parade Committee. If the vessel to be towed is permitted, it must be well lighted and within 12 feet of the towing vessel.

No fireworks, rockets or flares are allowed!

Inland Rules of the Road are in force, and all rules and regulations of the U.S. Coast Guard and Harbor Patrol must be followed.

Special instructions regarding parade flow and/or safety information will be under the direction of the Parade Committee Boat and/or Harbor Patrol boat.

Every parade participant should practice steering at night before the evening of the parade to familiarize himself/herself with boat movement in darkness and with the parade route.

Running lights must be operative and visible. An operative reverse gear is also required.

Parade Route & Procedures regarding Safety & possible Emergencies or Hazards will be covered at the mandatory **Skippers' meeting** tonight, following this presentation. Entrant skippers will also receive their Parade Identification Numbers at this meeting.

Parade Identification Numbers must be returned to the Greeter/Check-In Table in the KHYC Lobby at the end of the parade. You will receive your participation plaque at this time.

Holiday Boat Parade Decorating Tips

Keep it simple (and safe)

If you DON'T want something seen on your boat, don't light it

If you do WANT something seen on your boat, DO light it

Light up your parade numbers VERY WELL

Use LED lights to save up to 75% of the power used

Have FUN on the water

Schedule SEVERAL decorating parties – provide drinks and snacks

Only judged on the STARBOARD side of your boat (maybe forward & aft, too)

Adhere to all USCG safety regulations, life jackets for kids 12 & under

Assign one or more LOOK OUT's to communicate with operator

Wear RUBBER soled shoes

Tape electrical connections with GAFFER's tape, or electrical tape

DONT USE DUCT TAPE when decorating (fiberglass issue)

Create DRIP loops

Wear COSTUMES, especially KIDS, have them wear a larger size & put a life jacket on underneath

Keep a FIRE EXTINGUISHER within ARM's LENGTH of generator

Make sure generator has enough fuel to get you through the entire parade

LIVE FIRE on boats is NOT PERMITTED

Create a GOOD BOAT DESCRIPTION on the boat form completed at the Skippers Meeting

- For 3-times around the route (3 different scripts)

- Info about people on board
- Boat history
- Individual Theme
- Mission of Group – especially for organizations

TEST LIGHTS the night before. Get underway.

Make sure to NOT OBSTRUCT navigational lights (masthead, side lights, stern light)

Do not do 360s in front of judges – it slows down the pace and shows your un-decorated side

Rent sound equipment - Guitar Center, Sam Ask, etc.

Use coordinated costumes

Use spotlights to highlight costumes, decorations

Sailboats – When decorating, create framework/mesh vs. using actual sail

Planning – start early, 3 weeks out

COSTUME rental/purchase retail places:

- International Costume
- Aardvark
- The Costume Closet
- Hollywood

Use PROPS and try to ANIMATE (waiving penguins, etc.) Simple animations can be VERY effective

ENJOY the whole process & camaraderie

Come up with a TAGLINE for your theme. Create a BANNER with tagline (well lit)

If using PAINT, use FLOURESCENT paint

Use clear SHIPPINGTAPE & FOAM core

LIVE MUSIC score better than pre-recorded. Make sure it is AMPLIFIED

BOAT INFORMATION YOU MAY WANT TO INCLUDE ON THE FORM:

- ◆ Name of Boat
- ◆ Length of Boat
- ◆ Name of Skipper
- ◆ Names of Crew Aboard
 - ◆ Children and their ages
- ◆ Boat Theme
- ◆ Name of Marina Boat is Boarded in
- ◆ Interesting Facts About Boat You Want to Share
 - ◆ How it was Decorated
 - ◆ Length of Time it took to Decorate
 - ◆ Number of Lights
 - ◆ How Theme was Selected
 - ◆ Props Used

An example of this follows:

**“ALLA”
BOAT #6**

PASS 1

NUMBER 6 IS INES AND HAROLD DAVIDSON’S ENTRY “LITTLE MERMAID’S CHRISTMAS” THEIR BOAT IS A 36' SAIL “ALLA”. THE BOAT IS DONNED WITH OVER 1,000 LIGHTS. THE PROPS THIS YEAR INCLUDE A TREASURE CHEST AND AN UNDERSEA CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATED BY THE MERMAIDS WITH DEEP-SEA TREASURES. THE MERMAIDS ARE HOPEING FOR MANY GIFTS AS KING NEPTUNE UNLOCKS THE CHRISTMAS TREASURE CHEST WITH PRESENTS INCLUDING A VIOLIN, CAROUSEL HORSE AND A GIANT DIAMOND RING.

PASS 2

TO THE TUNE OF “UNDER THE SEA”, BOAT NUMBER 6 IS PILOTED BY CRAIG, AND THE SPOTTER IS ANDRES. KING NEPTUNE IS HAL DAVIDSON. THE MERMAIDS ARE RISS AND LOIS. WHAT TREASURES DO WE FIND THIS TIME? LITTLE MERMAIDS

PASS 3

HERE’S THE NUMBER 6 BOAT AGAIN, BELOW DECK ARE WES, JONAH, GABE AND ALICE. THE MERMAIDS ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT. WHAT’S THAT? A LITTLE SAILOR BOY? NOW THAT COMPLETES THEIR DEEP-SEA CHRISTMAS.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Design

A Design is the first step in successful decorating. Keep the design simple! Concentrate on the basic theme you select.

Decide on the audience you wish to capture and what might appeal to them. You can use symbols of the holiday season, national heritage, humorous, or those referring to the theme. Research is helpful for ideas or design approaches. Good ideas are found on greeting cards, children’s books, current magazines, TV advertisements or the Web.

Once you’ve selected your theme and approach, make a scale drawing (you can use the drawings included at the back of this manual).

SAMPLE LIST OF MATERIALS (might read as follows):

1x2s for outriggers

4-5 25 ft. extension cords

1 50 ft. extension cord

several "T" plugs for multiple plug-ins

? rolls duct tape (indispensable!)

? rolls nylon line

? spots or floodlights, 150 watts ea.

Christmas twinkle lights

? 25ft. strings lights

? strings mini lights - very effective

& provide lots of light for fewer watts!

(Note: Low voltage outdoor "Malibu" lights work great on the outriggers + use them in your remainder of the year!

Safety Tips

Check your boat's ballast weight when fully decorated & with crew aboard - before leaving your slip - and balance accordingly!

Use of a walkie talkie is handy from deck to skipper. The noise of engine, generator and music makes it nearly impossible to be heard.

Have one person in charge of the CO2 fire extinguisher near the auxiliary source(s) of power for your decorations.

GENERATOR: Determine how large a generator you will need. Don't underestimate the wattage you will be using or your lights will be dim!

Rentals are available - reserve well in advance! Pay in advance, if necessary to reserve yours! Marina Del Rey's Parade is the Saturday before King Harbor so there should be no conflict for local rentals.

To judge how effective this design will be at night, copy the drawing onto black paper using poster colors to simulate lights. Use bold, bright colors.

A good single idea, effectively carried out, will have the most impact on judges and spectators. Many colors of lights can be used effectively, but a single color or white is also most effective.

Consider the number of crew aboard, and make their apparel the costumes for your designs. Be sure to have lights shining directly on your crew if they are part of your design. If something or somebody is not lighted or have light shining on them, it will not be seen!

Remember your boat and its decorations are seen from both sides but only judged from one side (starboard).

Decorations

Decorations don't have to cost a lot, but they must be fire-proof or fire-retardant.

Although plywood is best, heavy cardboard, reinforced wood with stringers or chicken wire, or foamcore can be used for signs, props or backgrounds.

They can be painted with non-soluble paints, glittered, or covered with decorative sheets of petal paper, aluminum foil, mylar or plastic sheets.

Under good floodlights, these can look like a million.

Keep your designs as light (in weight) as possible. Lattice frames covered with chicken wire make a good base for designs. Large flat areas should have holes or flaps cut in them so the design does not act like a sail! Remember...King Harbor may have a beam wind that night on most of the parade route!

Sailboats can make use of their rigging to haul displays, light strings aloft!

Paint or cover any exposed framework (that you don't want seen) black.

Sound / Music

Music can be an important part of your overall presentation. Carefully pick music to fit your theme and mood.

Be sure to include the power usage when calculating the size of the generator you'll need!

To avoid a dead lull between selections or repeats, retape the section of music many times on a cassette tape or use a continuous loop. These are available in varying lengths. Time your music before buying the tape.

Place your speakers on the starboard side, where your audience will be. Normally sound seems to carry well across the water....but not in a boat parade. Plan your music loud to carry!

Special Effects

Special effects and animation can be as varied as your budget and imagination! But, you might consider the following as useful to your design:

Balloons (**Tie securely!**) Don't let them loose...they are bad for the marine environment!

Color wheels for spots

Fog machines

Bubble machines

... let your imagination roll!

Some animation can be effective without motors or other power "drains". Consider "people power" - a crew member pulling a rope, block and tackle, lifting a lever, turning a crank, that moves props or rotates lights.